

CLAIMS:

1. A method of selecting stored video programs (S_i) in which, together with the video programs (S_i) their running time (t_{Di}) and, if necessary, an information item (I_i) about the content, for example the genre, are stored, wherein, on the basis of a specified time duration (ΔT), those video programs (S_n) are automatically selected from the stored video programs (S_i) whose running time (t_{Dn}) multiplied by any applicable compression factor (C_n) is shorter than or equal to the specified time duration (ΔT).
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2. A method of selecting stored video programs (S_i) in which, with video programs (S_i), their running time (t_{Di}) and, if necessary, an information item (I_i) about the content, for example the genre, are stored, wherein, on the basis of a specified time duration (ΔT) up to a subsequent video program (S_F) having specified transmission start (t_{F0}) and an anticipated transmission end (t_{FE}), those video programs (S_n) are automatically selected from the stored video programs (S_i) whose running time (t_{Dn}), multiplied by any applicable compression factor (C_n) is shorter than or equal to N times the specified time duration (ΔT),
10 where N is between 1 and 2 and wherein the subsequent video program (S_F) is played back with a time offset and in a compressed form so that the anticipated transmission end (t_{FE}) of the subsequent video program is adhered to.
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3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein combinations of a plurality of video programs (S_n) are automatically selected, wherein the sum of the running time (t_{Dn}), multiplied by any applicable compression factor (C_n) of each video program (S_n) in the combination is shorter than or equal to N times the specified time duration (ΔT) where N is between 1 and 2.
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- 25 4. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein, on the basis of an information item (I_B) specified by a user, those video programs (S_G) are selected from the selected video programs (S_n) whose content information (I_G) corresponds to the user's requirement (I_B).

5. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein, on the basis of an information item (I_F) of the subsequent video program (S_F), those video programs (S_G) are selected whose content information (I_G) corresponds to the information (I_F) of the subsequent video program (S_F).

5 6. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the stored video programs (S_i) contain at least one compression factor (C_i).

10 7. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the compression factor (C_i) of a video program (S_i) is applied during the storage of the video program (S_i).

8. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the compression factor (C_i) of a video program (S_i) takes place in a separate run after the storage of the video program (S_i).

15 9. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the user enters an identification code.

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the video programs (S_i) are selected as a function of parameters assigned to the identification code.

20 11. A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the parameters assigned to the identification code contain a selection of permissible content information items (I_i).

12. A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein a user's inputs are stored together 25 with the identification code.

13. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the video programs (S_i) are selected as a function of the absolute time.

30 14. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the applicable compression, if any, of the video programs (S_i) takes place as a function of the running time of the video program (S_i).

15. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the video program (S_i) is compressed as a function of the information (I_i) about the content, for example the genre, of the video program (S_i).

5 16. A playback device (1) for video programs (S_i) having at least one memory device (5) for the video programs (S_i) and their running times (t_{D_i}), furthermore having a control unit (12) for the selection of those video programs (S_n) from the stored video programs (S_i) whose running time (t_{D_n}), multiplied by any applicable compression factor (C_n) is shorter than or equal to N times a specified time duration (ΔT), where the factor N is
10 between 1 and 2.

17. A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein an input unit (11) is provided for the input of the time duration (ΔT).

15 18. A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein a memory device (7) for information (I_i) about the content, for example the genre, of the video programs (S_i) is provided that is connected to a control unit (12) for the selection of those video programs (S_n) from the selected video programs (S_n) whose content information (I_G) corresponds to a user's requirement (I_B).

20 19. A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, having a memory device (8) for at least one compression factor (C_n) assigned to the video programs (S_i).

25 20. A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein an input unit (11) is provided for the entry of a user identification code.

21. A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein a database (13) is provided for the storage of an entered time duration (ΔT) associated with an identification code and, if necessary, input (I_B) of an information item (I_i) about the content of the video programs (S_i).

30 22. A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein a summing unit (16) is provided, which summing unit (16) is connected to the control unit (12).

23. A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least one compression device (14) is provided for the compression of the playback of a video program (S_i).

5 24. A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein a device (15) is provided for selection of the method of compression of the video programs (S_i).

25. A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least one memory device (17) is provided for the temporary storage of video signals during playback.

10 26. A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein a timer (18) is provided that is connected to the control unit (12).